

Town of Weare
Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting
of December 2, 2009

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Conservation Committee room in the Town Office.

Present were Gregg Elwood, Neal Kurk, Brenda Lashway, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, and Mark Sullivan. Town administrator Naomi Bolton also attended part of the meeting.

1. The committee's schedule was discussed. The committee will next meet on December 10th with SAU officials for a presentation on school revenues. It will meet on December 16th with Naomi Bolton for a presentation on town revenues. It will also meet on January 6, 20, and 27, 2010.
2. Town budget deadlines were discussed.
 - 1/12/10: last date for bond issue and budget public hearing notices
 - 1/18/10: public hearing on town budget
 - 1/25/10: last date for publishing final budget
 - 1/30/10: town deliberative session
 - 3/9/10: voting session
3. Naomi Bolton offered to provide the committee with whatever information it requested. She informed the committee that 2010 town revenues are likely to be the same or slightly lower than 2009. She noted the selectmen's concern over the guaranteed maximum health care insurance premium rate increase of 27.6%.
4. The committee discussed its approach to its task. After much deliberation, Neal Kurk moved, seconded by Ike Shepard, that due to the continued uncertainties created by the difficult national, state and local economies, and to the loss of jobs, hours of work and pay reductions that many residents of Weare suffer, increased taxes in 2010 are not affordable, and, therefore, the Finance Committee will only support those 2010 budgets and warrant articles that result in a tax rate that is the same or lower than in 2009. The motion was adopted 6 – 0. Members agreed to work with school and town budget writers to achieve this objective.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk
Secretary

